

**ADDRESSES:** The lease sale will be held in the 1st Floor Conference Room (Room 107) of the Wyoming State Office, 5353 Yellowstone Road, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82009. Sealed bids clearly marked "Sealed Bid for North Rochelle Tract, WYW127221—Not to be opened before 1 p.m., on Thursday, September 25, 1997", must be submitted to the Cashier, Wyoming State Office, at the address given above or P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82003-1828.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Laura Steele, Land Law Examiner, or Melvin Schlagel, Coal Coordinator, at 307-775-6200.

**SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:** This coal lease sale is being held in response to a lease by application filed by Bluegrass Coal Development Company (formerly, SMC Mining Company), a subsidiary of Zeigler Coal Holding Company of Evansville, Indiana. The coal resources to be reoffered consist of all reserves recoverable by surface mining methods in the following described lands located approximately 46 miles south-southeast of the City of Gillette, Wyoming, and about 13 miles southeast of Reno Junction just north of the Reno County Road:

- T. 42 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming  
Sec. 4: Lots 5-16, 19 and 20;  
Sec. 5: Lots 5-16;
- T. 43 N., R. 70 W., 6th P.M., Wyoming  
Sec. 32: Lots 9-16;  
Sec. 33: Lots 11-14.  
Containing 1,481.930 acres.

All of the acreage reoffered has been determined to be suitable for mining. The surface estate of the tract is controlled by Arco Coal Company, Powder River Coal Company, and the U.S. Forest Service.

The North Rochelle Tract, located in Campbell County, Wyoming, is adjacent to the existing North Rochelle and Black Thunder Mines and contains surface minable coal reserves in the Wyodak seam currently being recovered in the existing mines. The Wyodak seam averages about 57 feet thick with an additional minable rider seam above the main seam that averages about 7 feet thick. There are no coal outcrops on the tract.

The overburden above the rider seam ranges from 100-200 feet thick while the overburden above the main Wyodak seam where no rider seam exists ranges from 175-250 feet thick. The total in-place stripping ratio (BCY/ton) of the coal seams is 2.91:1.

The tract contains an estimated 157,610,000 tons of minable coal in the Wyodak and rider seams. This estimate of minable reserves does not include

any tonnage from localized seams or splits containing less than 5 feet of coal.

The coal is ranked as subbituminous C. The overall average quality is 8680 BTU/lb, 4.91 percent ash, 27.72 percent moisture, and .23 percent sulfur. These quality averages place the coal reserves near the low end of coal quality currently being mined in the far southern Powder River Basin south of Wright, Wyoming. The tract in this lease offering contains split estate lands. The surface is not held by a qualified surface owner as defined in the regulations, 43 CFR 3400.0-5.

The tract will be leased to the qualified bidder of the highest cash amount provided that the high bid equals or exceeds the fair market value of the tract. The minimum bid for the tract is \$100 per acre or fraction thereof. No bid that is less than \$100 per acre, or fraction thereof, will be considered. The bid should be sent by "Certified Mail, Return Receipt Requested", or be hand delivered. The Cashier will issue a receipt for each hand-delivered bid. Bids received after 11 a.m., Thursday, September 25, 1997, will not be considered. The minimum bid is not intended to represent fair market value. The fair market value of the tract will be determined by the Authorized Officer after the sale.

If identical high bids are received, the tying high bidders will be requested to submit follow-up sealed bids until a high bid is received. All tie-breaking sealed bids must be submitted within 15 minutes following the Sale Official's announcement at the sale that identical high bids have been received.

The lease issued as a result of this offering will provide for payment of an annual advance rental of \$3.00 per acre, or fraction thereof, and of a royalty payment to the United States of 12½ percent of the value of coal produced by strip or auger mining methods and 8 percent of the value of the coal produced by underground mining methods. The value of the coal will be determined in accordance with 30 CFR 203.250(f).

Bidding instructions for the tract reoffered and the terms and conditions of the proposed coal lease are available from the Wyoming State Office at the addresses above. The case file, WYW127221, is available for inspection at the Wyoming State Office.

Dated: August 23, 1997.

**Alan R. Pierson,**  
State Director.

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## DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

### Bureau of Land Management

[AZ-933-1990-00]

#### Notice of Availability of the Programmatic Environmental Assessment for Selected Actions Taken for Mining Claim Use and Occupancy in Arizona, and the Preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact

**AGENCY:** Bureau of Land Management, Interior.

**ACTION:** Notice of availability.

**SUMMARY:** In accordance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (NEPA), and Use and Occupancy Under the Mining Laws regulations (43 CFR 3715), the Bureau of Land Management has prepared an environmental assessment (EA) that evaluates the impacts of typical mining claim and/or millsite occupancies. This EA describes and analyzes the proposed action, consisting of seven typical occupancy scenarios, and the no action option. The actions analyzed in this EA involve operations that disturb 5 acres or less. This notice is intended to invite the public to comment on the analysis of impacts presented in the EA and the performance measures developed for the proposed action.

**DATES:** Written comments will be accepted on or before September 29, 1997. Any comments received by the close of the comment period will be evaluated and those letters that identify issues, where clarification or discussion is required, will be addressed in the final EA. Copies of the EA and the preliminary Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) will be provided to any person or agency commenting, or to other interested parties, upon written request.

Comments on the EA and FONSI should be sent to the Arizona State Office at the address listed below.

**ADDRESSES:** Send comments on the EA to: Bureau of Land Management, Arizona State Office, AZ-933, 222 North Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ 85004-2203.

**FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:** Ralph Costa, Mining Engineer, Arizona State Office. Telephone: (602) 417-9349.

Dated: August 20, 1997.

**Denise P. Meridith,**  
State Director.

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